

Application No.: 10/810,213
Amendment Dated: November 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: August 16, 2006

MAT-8524US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-3 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment claims 1-3 are amended and new claims 4 and 5 are added. No new matter is presented by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification and, more particularly, in the original specification at page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 4.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, at item 3, claim 3 is objected to for a typographical error. Claim 3 has been amended to correct the typographical error. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, at item 4, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagashima (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,111). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a folding mechanism, and recites:

... a first set of movable and fixed cams form an inner camming unit,
and

a second set of movable and fixed cams form an outer camming unit
positioned circumferentially around the inner camming unit.

That is, the folding mechanism includes an inner camming unit and an outer camming positioned circumferentially around the inner camming unit.

Nagashima Reference

Nagashima discloses inner cam 8 and outer cam 9 which confronts slider cam 6 (see Nagashima at Col. 4, lines 46-57). In Nagashima, however, the cam portions 6c and 6d, as shown in Fig. 9 of Nagashima, extend from the outer perimeter of slide cam 6 to the through-hole 6d. Thus, the same cam portions 6c and 6e resiliently contact both the inner and the outer cams 8 and 9. In contrast to the recitation in claim 1, Nagashima does not disclose the structure of the inner and outer camming units as recited in claim 1. This is because, cam portion 6c and 6d work with both the inner cam 8 and outer cam 9. Thus, the structure of the Nagashima device does not allow for a set of fixed and movable cams corresponding to an outer camming device to be circumferentially around another set of fixed and movable cams corresponding to an outer camming unit.

Moreover, in Nagashima, inner cam 8 has a pair of concave cam portions 8a (see Fig. 11 of Nagashima) engageably facing the convex incline cam portions 6c of the cam slider 6. Further, outer cam 9 has a pair of concave cam portions 9b (see Fig. 15) engageably facing the convex incline cam portions 6c of the slider cam 6. In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to contend that inner cam 8 and outer cam 9 correspond to the fixed member recited in claim 1. Nagashima, however, discloses that the inner cam 8 is rotatable with respect to outer cam 9 and that the inner cam 8 rotates with the shaft 5 so that the movable side body 3 is opened automatically. (See Nagashima at col. 5, lines 10-19). Thus, the inner cam 8 is movable with respect to the outer cam 9 and cannot correspond to the "**fixed member**," as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, the present invention recited in claim 1 does not include a disadvantage found in the Nagashima device. That is, due to the structure of the inner and outer cams 8 and 9 disclosed in Nagashima, the movable housing cannot be opened wider than 180°. (See Nagashima at col. 5, lines 26-31.)

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Nagashima for the above mentioned reasons, and should be allowable.

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Claim 3

Claim 3, which includes similar but not identical patentably distinguishing features, is also submitted to patentably distinguish over Nagashima for at least similar reasons to those of claim 1.

Claim 2

Claim 2, which includes all of the limitations of claim 1, is also submitted to patentably distinguish over Nagashima for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

New Claims 4-5

New claims 4-5, which include all of the limitations of claim 1 or claim 3, are also submitted to patentably distinguish over Nagashima for at least the same reasons as those of claim 1 or claim 3.

Claims 4 and 5 further include patentably distinct features beyond those of claim 1 and claim 3. For example, claim 4 includes the feature of:

the inner and outer camming units are disposed ... such that each respective movable or fixed cam is disposed on one of the inner circumferential portion or the outer circumferential portion.

Consideration and approval of new claims 4 and 5 is respectfully requested.

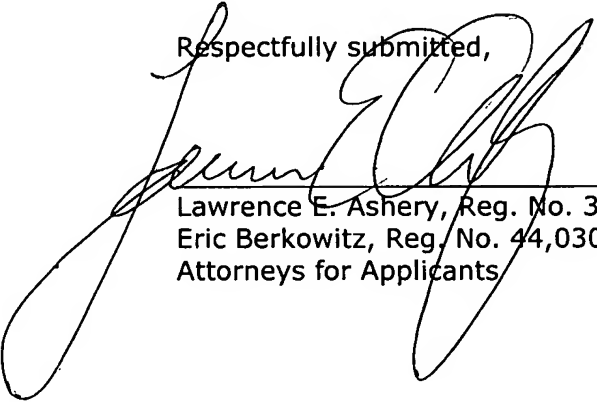
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Conclusion

In view of the amendments, new claims and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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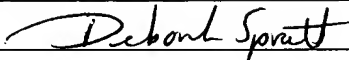
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